CALL TO MUSLIMS TO BECOME AN UMMAH

Translation of a speech by

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Following is the gist of an important speech delivered by *Maulana Mohammad Yusuf Rahmatullahi-Alaih (RUA)* on 30th March 1965, three days before his death, after *Fajr Salat* at Raewind. It was the last important speech of his life. *Maulana Abdul Aziz RUA* (Khulna, Bangladesh) procured this speech to *Maulana Mohammad Manzoor Nomani RUA*, editor *Al-Furqan*. The complete speech is inscribed on twenty-six pages. The editor *Al-Furqan* summarized it, keeping in view that no important portion is left out, and published it in *Hazratji* Number of his journal in 1965.

After *Hamd-o-Salat, Maulana Yusuf RUA* started his speech, in a manner quit unusual for him, with the following words:

"Look here, I am not feeling well, could not sleep all through the night. Inspite of this, considering it important, I am speaking. Whosoever understands it and acts upon it, *Allah* will make him shine, otherwise he would axe his own foot.

This *Ummah* came into existence after lot of struggle. To make it an *Ummah*, the *Rasool SallAllahu-Alaihi-Wasallam* (*SAW*) and his companions *Radhi-Allahu-Anhum* (*RAA*) have undergone great hardships. While their enemies, *Yahood* and *Nasara*, always tried that the *Muslim* may not remain an *Ummah*, rather be splitted into factions. Now the *Muslims* have lost their '*Ummat-hood*'[1]. As long as they were one *Ummah*,

1. '*Ummat-hood* is the translation of *Ummat-pana'*, a term coined by *Maulana Yusuf RUA*. It refers to the quality of this *Ummah* being united like a single body as mentioned in a *Hadith* of the *Rasool SAW*.

a few hundred thousand of them fell heavy upon the whole world. There was not even a single cemented house. Even the *masjid* was not cemented. No lamp was lit in the *masjid* of *Rasool SAW*. The first lamp was lit in the *masjid* of *Rasool SAW* in the ninth year of *Hijrah*. The first man to light up a lamp in the *masjid* of the *Rasool SAW* was *Tameem Dari RAA*, who embraced *Islam* in the ninth year of *Hijrah*. But by that time almost the whole Arab had entered into the fold of *Islam*. Different nations, different languages and different clans had become an *Ummah*. When all this had happened then only the first lamp was lit in the *masjid* of the *Rasool SAW*. The light of *hidayah* which the *Rasool SAW* bought with him had spread all over the Arab and even beyond it and the *Ummah* had come into existence. This *Ummah* then rose in the world and in whatever direction it proceeded, countries after countries fell at their feet. This *Ummah* was formed such that not a single person in it was siding with his family, his community, his party, his nation, his country or his language, No one gave weightage to his wealth, property, wife and children, rather every one was concerned about the sayings of *Allah* and His *Rasool SAW*. An *Ummah* comes into existence only when all the relations and acquaintances are curtailed in case they come in the way of compliance to the orders of *Allah* and His *Rasool SAW*. When the *Muslims* were an *Ummah*, the whole *Ummah* was shaken if a single *Muslim* was killed anywhere. Now thousands and thousands are massacred but no heed is paid.

'Ummah' is not the name given to a nation or inhabitants of a specific region. Unification of hundreds and thousands of nations and regions forms the *Ummah*. Anyone who owns only a particular nation or region and disowns others, slaughters the *Ummah*, tears it into pieces and nullifies the efforts of the *Rasool SAW* and his companions *RAA*. First we splitted and thus slaughtered the *Ummah*, then only the *Yahood* and *Nasara* butchered into pieces the already slaughtered *Ummah*. If the *Muslims* once again become an *Ummah*, all the powers of the world, joined together, will not be able to cause the slightest harm to them. Atom bombs and rockets will fail to eliminate them. However, if due to national and regional feelings, the *Muslims* continue splitting the *Ummah* into pieces, then by *Allah*, your weapons and armies shall not be able to save you.

The *Muslims* are being beaten up all over the world and loosing their lives since by loosing *'Ummat-hood'* they have nullified the sacrifices of the *Rasool SAW*. I am expressing the feelings of an aggrieved heart. The disaster is there because the *Ummah* no more remained an *Ummah*. The very concept of an *Ummah* has gone into oblivion and so is the process through which the *Rasool SAW* formed it.

To become an *Ummah* and for gaining the favour from *Allah*, the existence of *Salat*, *Zikr*, *madrasah* and education in *madrasah* is not enough. The killer of *Ali RAA*, *Ibne Muljam*, was such a staunch doer of *Salat* and rememrence of *Allah* that when the enraged mob, attempting to kill him, tried to slash his tongue he requested to be spared of it so that he could continue hymning the name of *Allah* till his last breath. Inspite of this, the *Rasool SAW* had said that the killer of *Ali* (*RAA*) would be the most wretched and unfortunate person. *Abul*

Fazl and *Faizi*[2] obtained the education in *madrasah* and were so learned that they wrote a commentary of the *Quran* without any letter with a dot. But they were the persons who misguided *Akbar* and ruined *deen*. How can the qualities, possessed *by Ibne Muljam, Abul Fazl* and *Faizi*, suffice for the formation of *Ummah* and draw the divine help of *Allah*?

Shah Ismail Shaheed RUA, Syed Ahmad Shaheed RUA and their companions[3] belonged to the best lot from the point of view of *deen*. When they reached the frontier areas, people there, accepted them as their elders. But then, the Satan deluded some of the local *Muslims* not to follow them as they were outsiders and they provoked others for treason. Consequently, their numerous companions were killed. The *Muslims* themselves shattered the *'Ummat-hood* on the basis of regionalism. As a punishment, *Allah* imposed the British rule upon them. That was a wrath of *Allah*.

2. *Abul Fazl* and *Faizi* were two confident courtiers of the Mughal Emperor, *Akbar*, who ruled India and floated a new religion *Deen-e-llahi*.
3. *Maulana Shah Ismail Shaheed RUA* (b1193H) was a renowned scholar from the famous family of *Shah WAliullah RUA* in Delhi. He crusaded for elimination of *bidah* and revival of the spirit of *Islam* in northern India. Later on he joined the movement of *jihad* under the banner of *Syed Ahmad Shaheed RUA* (b1201H) from Rae Bareilly against the tyrant un-islamic rule in India. They raised an army of *Muslims* and gathered in the northern frontier area of Indian subcontinent, inhabited by the *Muslims* famous for their martial characteristics, with an intention to seek their participation and then attack the un-islamic government. At the end, after a battle at Balakot, the *Muslims* lost due to treason of some frontier chieftains. Both *Maulana Ismail RUA* and *Syed Ahmad RUA* along with a large number of their army personnel were martyred.

Behold, 'my nation', 'my region' and 'my community' are the feelings responsible for the segregation of the *Ummah. Allah* dislikes this so much that when an esteemed *Sahabi, Saad Bin Ubadah RAA*, committed a mistake, which if unchecked could have separated the *Ansar* and *Muhajreen,* he had to face the consequences. It is quoted that he was killed by *jins* and a disembodied voice was heard in *Madinah:*

قتلنا سيد الخزرج سعد بن عبادة رميناه بسهم فلم يخط فؤاده[4]

This incident set a precedent and taught a lesson that even if a person out of the best ones breaks the *'Ummat-hood', Allah* will not spare him.

Ummah will be formed when all classes in the *Ummah,* without discrimination, take up the work which *Rasoolullah SAW* has entrusted. And remember the evils of dealing and lifestyle are the things, which spoil the *'Ummat-hood'*. When an individual or a class perpetrates injustice and atrocities upon others and denies their full rights or puts them in trouble or humiliates and degrades them, then the division takes place and the *'Ummat-hood'* is lost. That is why I say that the *Ummah* will not be formed merely by *Kalimah* and *tasbeeh*. It will be built by a reform in dealings and lifestyles and by paying the rights and respecting all. Rather it will be formed when one's own rights and interest are sacrificed for the sake of others. The *Rasool SAW, Abu Bakr RAA* and *Umar RAA* formed this *Ummah* by sacrificing every thing they had and by undergoing hardships. In the days of *Umar RAA,* once came a huge amount, of the order of millions and billions.

4. We have killed the chief of *Khazraj, Saad Ibne Ubadah*. We made him target of an arrow which pierced right through his heart.

Consultations were made for its distribution. At that time, the *Ummah* was intact. The persons participating in the consultations did not belong merely to a particular clan or class, rather to different clans and classes and were considered distinguished because of their companionship with the *Rasool SAW*. After mutual consultation, they proposed that the distribution should be such that the share given to the people of the *Rasool SAW*'s clan may be the largest, then to the people of *Abu Bakr RAA*'s clan, then to those from *Umar RAA*'s clan. As such the relatives of *Umar RAA* stood third in preference. When this suggestion was placed before *Umar RAA* he did not accept it and said that whatever the *Ummah* got in the past and was getting at that time, it was because of the *Rasool SAW*. Therefore, the closeness in relationship with the *Rasool SAW* should be the sole criterion. Closer one was in family-lineage with the *Rasool SAW* more he should get. In this way *Bani Hashim* were to be given the largest share, then *Bani Abd Manaf* then the descendents of *Qusai*, then of *Kilab*, then of *Kaab*, then of *Murrah*. As such the clan of *Umar RAA* fell much behind and it's share drastically reduced. But *Umar RAA* adhered to the decision leaving his clan far behind in receiving the share of the wealth. This is how this *Ummah* was formed.

In order to form the *Ummah*, it is essential that everyone's efforts should be directed towards unity and avoidance of division. It is narrated in a *Hadith* of the *Rasool SAW* that on the day of reckoning a man would be brought who had performed *Salat, Saum, Haj* and *Tableegh* every thing in the world. But he would be subjected to chastisement because some of his utterances had created division in the

Ummah. He would be told that first he should undergo the punishment for his word which harmed the *Ummah*. On the other hand, there would be another person who would have dearth of *Salat, Saum* and *Haj* etc. in his account and would be scared of *Allah*'s wrath. But he would be bestowed upon with enormous rewards. He himself would enquire which of the deeds was fetching him the favours. He would be told that on certain occasion he uttered something, which prevented a possible destruction in the *Ummah* and caused integration and averted disintegration. All that was being given as the reward for the word uttered by him.

In the formation and deformation, integration and disintegration of the *Ummah*, the greatest role is played by the tongue. It unites the hearts as well as tears them away. A wrong utterance instigates a quarrel and complete disruption, while another utterance becomes a source of unity and joins the disrupted hearts. Therefore, the most important requirement is to have a control on tongues. This is possible when the slaves of *Allah* have a persistent consideration that *Allah* is present with them at every time and every place and listening to all their utterances.

There were two clans amongst the *Ansar*, viz. *Aus* and *Khazraj*. An age old enmity and quarrel existed between them. When the *Rasool SAW* migrated to *Madinah* and the *Ansar* entered into the folds of *Islam*, then by virtue of the *Rasool SAW* and *Islam*, their age-old quarrel turned into mutual love and affection. Seeing this, the Jews conspired to make them once again hostile against each other. In a gathering where persons from both the clans were present, a conspirator arrived and started reciting provocative verses related to their old enmities. First

a hot exchange of words took place between them and then the swords were drawn out. Someone informed the *Rasool SAW*. He rushed to the place and said, 'Do you intend to start a bloodshed amongst yourselves while I am present with you?'. He gave a very brief but touching sermon. Both the parties realized that they were instigated by the Satan. They cried and embraced each other and the following verses of the *Quran* were revealed:

[5] يا ايها الذين امنوا اتقوا الله حق تقاته ولا تموتن الا وانتم مسلمون

O *Muslims*! Fear *Allah* as He should be feared and remain a perfect *Muslim* and obedient slave of *Allah* till your last breath. When someone remembers *Allah* at every moment and is afraid of His anger and punishment and always obedient to Him, then the Satan would not be able to mislead him and the *Ummah* will be saved from division and evils.

[6] واعتصموا بحبل الله جميعا ولا تفرقوا واذكروا نعمت الله عليكم اذ
كنتم اعداء فالف بينكم فاصبحتم بنعمته اخوانا وكنتم على شفا حفرة
من النار فانقذكم منها -

Hold *Allah*'s rope i.e. His sacred book and His *deen* with full collectiveness and with the quality of *'Ummat-hood'*. Be firm on this and do not split on the basis of nations, regions, languages or any other account and do not forget the kindness of *Allah* that He brought to an end the enmity in your hearts which persisted since ages and created love in your

5. O ye who believe! Fear *Allah* as He should be feared and die not except in the state of *Islam*. (S-3,A-102).
6. And hold fast altogether, by the rope which *Allah* (stretches out for you) and be not divided among yourselves and remember with gratitude *Allah*'s favour on you for ye were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His grace ye became brethren and ye were on the brink of the pit of the fire and He saved you from it. (S-3, A-103).

hearts and made you brothers. And while fighting amongst yourselves you were standing on the brink of hell and were about to fall into it when *Allah* held you back and saved from the hell. The Satan is with you and the remedy is that a group amongst you may be there whose sole purpose should be to invite people towards good deeds and stop them all evils and destruction.

[7] ولتكن منكم امة يدعون الى الخير ويامرون بالمعروف وينهون
عن المنكر واولئك هم المفلحون .

There should be a group in the *Ummah* whose sole job and aim should be to invite towards *deen* and everything that is good, to put in efforts for imaan, to move on the path of good, on *Salat*, on the remembrance, on the knowledge brought by the *Rasool SAW*, to save from evils and sins so that the *Ummah* remains an *Ummah*.

[8] ولا تكونوا كالذين تفرقوا واختلفوا من بعد ما جاءهم البينات و
اولئك لهم عذاب عظيم -

Those who, inspite of these advices, follow Satan and walk on divergent paths to create differences and disrupt the *'Ummat-hood'* of the *Ummah*, will be heavily punished by *Allah*.

All the teachings of *deen* are directed towards unity and integration. *Salat* unites. *Saum* unites. *Haj* unites the nations, the countries and people of different languages. The *Halaqas* of *Taleem* unite. Respect (*Ikram*) of *Muslims*, mutual love and exchange of gifts, all these things unite and lead to *Jannah*. On

7. Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong. They are the ones to attain the felicity. (S-3, A-104).
8. Be not like those who are divided amongst themselves and fall into disputations after receiving clear signs. For them is a dreadful chastisement. (S-3, A-105).

the day of judgement, all those who would have strived for these deeds will have shinning faces. Contrary to this, creating mutual enmity, jealousy, backbiting, slander, disgrace, humiliation and hear-burning, all these things cause a disunity and disintegration and lead their doers to hell. They will have their faces blackened on the day of judgement.

[9] يوم تبيض وجوه وتسود وجوه فاما الذين اسودت وجوههم.
أكفرتم بعد ايمانكم فذوقوا العذاب بما كنتم تكفرون واما الذين
ابيضت وجوههم ففي رحمة الله هم فيها خالدون -

My brothers and friends! Numerous verses were revealed when the *Yahood* tried to instigate differences among the *Ansar* and brought the two clans opposite to each other. In these verses, the mutual differences and quarrels have been termed as acts of *Kufr* and warning has been given for chastisement in the hereafter. At present the efforts is being made all over the world to shatter the *'Ummat-hood'*. The only remedy and antidote is that you get involved in the effort of *Rasool SAW*. Bring the *Muslims* to mosques. Therein talk of *Imaan* may be given, *Halaqas* of *Taleem* and *Zikr* may be arranged, consultation for the effort of *deen* may be made. People from different classes, communities and different languages may join these works on the pattern of *masjid* of the *Rasool SAW*. Then the *'Ummat-hood'* will come into existence. Protect yourself from the deeds which may provided a chance to Satan to sow the seeds of division. When three persons sit together, they may keep in mind that the fourth

9. On the day when some faces will be (lit up with) white, and some faces will be black (will be said), "Did ye reject faith after recepting it? Taste then the chastisement for rejecting faith". But those whose faces will be (lit with) white, they will be in (the light of) *Allah*'s mercy; therein to dwell (forever). (S-3, A-106, 107).

with them is *Allah*. When four or five persons sit together, they remember for sure that the fifth or sixth person with them is *Allah*. He is listening and looking whether they are talking of integrating the *Ummah* or disintegrating it; backbiting, slandering or conspiring against anyone. This *Ummah* was formed with the blood and starvation of the *Rasool SAW*. Now we are splitting it on insignificant accounts. Remember, even the grip for neglecting the *Salat* of *Jummah* will not be as strong as that for disintegrating the *Ummah*. If *'Ummat-hood'* comes in the *Muslims*, they will never be disgraced in the world. Even the powers of America and Russia will bow to them. And the *'Ummat-hood'* will come into existence when the *Muslims* act upon اذلة على المؤمنين [10] i.e. every *Muslim* adopts humbleness and humility against other *Muslims*. This is to be practiced in *Tableegh*. When the quality of اذلة على المؤمنين comes into *Muslims* they will be certainly اعزة على الكافرين [11] in the world, i.e. dominant and powerful against the disbelievers, whether they are from Europe or from Asia. My brothers and friends! *Allah* and the *Rasool SAW* have strictly forbidden all those activities, which may inculcate differences in the hearts and create disunity. Since whispering between two or four persons enables Satan to create suspicion in the heart of others, it is prohibited and termed as Satanic act.

[12] انما النجوى من الشيطن ليحزن الذين امنوا وليس بضارهم
شيئا الا باذن الله وعلى الله فليتوكل المومنون -

10. Lowly with the believers. (S-5, A-54).
11. Mighty against the rejecters. (S-5, A-54).
12. Secret counsels are only (inspired) by Satan, in order that he may cause grieves to the believers. But he cannot harm them in the least, except as *Allah* permits. (S-58, A-10).

Similarly humiliating, mocking and jesting are also forbidden. لا يسخر قوم من قوم عسى ان يكونوا خيرا منهم [13].

Digging for faults of others and to mention someone's actual short comings before others i.e. backbiting are also forbidden. Backbiting is to describe someone's actual evils before others.

ولا تجسسوا ولا يغتب بعضكم بعضا [14]

Humiliating, mocking, spying on others and backbiting; all these things break the '*Ummat-hood*' by creating a division. All these things are prohibited. Respecting and honouring each other, which unite the *Ummah*, have been enjoined. Expecting ones own respect from others is prohibited because this does not form the *Ummah* rather ruins it. *Ummah* will be formed when everyone decides about himself that he is not worthy of respect and therefore does not seek respect but gives respect to others considering them worthy of it.

When self-sacrifice will be rendered then the *Ummah* will be made up. When the *Ummah* will be made up then the honour will be gained. Honour and dishonour are not in the frame of Russia and America. But they are in the hands of *Allah* and He had laid principles and regulations. Any individual, nation, family or class, which follows the principles and performs the deeds for shining, will be made to shine. Those adopting the path of destruction will be punished. *Yahood*, who are the progeny of prophets, violated the rules, so *Allah* kicked them to pieces. The *Sahaba RAA*, who were the off springs of idolaters, adopted the principles meant for shining, so *Allah* made them shine. *Allah* has no kinship with anyone. He has principles and regulations.

13. Let not some among you laugh at others. It may be that the (latter) are better, than the (former). (S-49, A-11).
14. And spy not on each other. Nor speak ill of each other behind their backs. (S-49, A-12).

Friends, devote yourselves whole heartedly for this efforts so that the *Ummah* of the *Rasool SAW* may regain the *Ummat-hood*. The true faith and *imaan* may come into it. It may become and *Ummah* having *Zikr*, *Tasbeeh* and *Taleem*, prostration before *Allah*, performance of services (*Khidmah*), tolerance and respect & honour for others. It may become an *Ummah* devoid of slander, disobedience, disgracing mocking, spying and backbiting the brothers and friends. If this effort is made, the way it ought to be, even at a single place; it will spread all over the world.

Now arrange to combine people of different nations, regions classes and languages and send them in the path of *Allah* and get the adherence to the principles. *Insha-Allah* the work for the formation of the *Ummah* will be done, and Satan and *nafs* will not be able to cause any harm.